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Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Letter dated 23 May 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Further to the adoption of Security Council resolution 1483 (2003) on 22 May 2003, regarding the situation in Iraq, I have informed the President of the Security Council that it is my intention to appoint Sergio Vieira de Mello my Special Representative for Iraq, for a period of four months.

In recognizing the unprecedented situation facing the Iraqi people, the Security Council has entrusted the United Nations with a vital role in providing humanitarian relief, assisting in the reconstruction of Iraq and the establishment of national and local institutions for governance. In the light of this mandate, I am taking the unusual step of appointing Mr. Vieira de Mello, presently the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, for this short-term assignment in Iraq, in view of his unique experience in serving the United Nations in post-conflict situations in the past.

In Mr. Vieira de Mello's absence from Geneva, I have decided to designate the Deputy to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Bertie Ramcharan, Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

I should appreciate it if you would inform the General Assembly of the foregoing.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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